

Jaworski will conduct Korean influence probe

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Former special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski, who obtained the tape that forced former President Richard M. Nixon to resign, agreed Wednesday to become chief investigator of the House probe into alleged Korean influence-buying in Congress.

Jaworski agreed in a telephone call to Rep. John J. Flynt, D-Ga., chairman of the House committee conducting the investigation. He will replace Philip A. Lacovara, who quit Friday in a fight with Flynt.

Reporters witnessing the phone call in Washington could hear only Flynt's words. At one point he assured Jaworski, "That's perfectly agreeable to me. As a matter of fact, I'm a very easy person to get along with."

Flynt said Jaworski insisted on taking the job without pay. Flynt said this "came as a complete surprise to me."

Lacovara and his law firm were being paid \$75 per manhour for time spent on the case.

Lacovara worked under Jaworski on the Watergate case. He and Jaworski argued the Nixon tapes case before the Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously in July 1974 that Nixon had to surrender them to the prosecutor.

Flynt said he expects the committee to approve Jaworski as the new special counsel for the investigation at a meeting Thursday. He said Jaworski plans to begin working full time Aug. 15.

The chairman said he sent Jaworski five pounds of documents Tuesday night

and said Jaworski would not have accepted the job without them.

He refused to say what the documents were but said they were not committee evidence.

One of Jaworski's law partners, Peter White, will serve as special deputy counsel beginning as early as Thursday, Flynt said, and Jaworski will probably be involved in the probe before he takes over fulltime in mid-August.

Asked if Jaworski's law firm, which has a Washington office, might have any clients that would subject him to conflict of interest in the investigation, Flynt called the question insulting and said he had already satisfied himself that neither Jaworski nor the law firm has any conflict of interest.

Jaworski was special Watergate prosecutor from November 1973 to October 1974, and during the that time obtained the so-called "smoking gun" tape that forced former President Nixon to resign Aug. 9, 1974.

Nixon was recorded agreeing with staff aides that the FBI should be given a false story to steer them away from campaign contributions that were to link the White House with the Watergate burglary.

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill earlier said he had "high hopes" that Jaworski would take over the investigation of the allegations that South Korean agents bribed members of Congress.

O'Neill and House Majority Leader Jim Wright also had telephoned Jaworski to urge him to take the post.

The speaker said he promised the Houston attorney that he would have the

same authority he had as special Watergate prosecutor: "complete freedom to do a complete and thorough job no matter who it touches."

The speaker said he would try to keep any House members in Washington during Congress' month-long August recess if the new chief counsel thinks that is necessary.

The committee is investigating reports that the Korean government used money, gifts and favors to seek to influence members of Congress.

Flynt, who says he also has asked Jaworski to take the job, also said the ethics committee will guarantee the new chief investigator "total independence" — but said there are three powers he won't have and one of them is the power to call meetings.

Only the chairman can call meetings, sign subpoenas or sign payroll vouchers, Flynt said.

Flynt's committee, meanwhile, rejected 9 to 3 a Republican proposal to try to get Lacovara back.

The motion was made by Rep. Albert Quie, R-Minn., who said the committee should at least find out from Lacovara what the problem was to avoid similar problems with the next chief investigator.

But Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., said that "would make Congress look weak."

John Nields, appointed by Flynt to be acting staff director, reported to the committee that reports suggesting the staff has found 115 congressmen were involved in the Korean affair "are wrong."